634 Dixie

Duplicate

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208 Forestry Building, C.S.C.
Fort Collins, Colorado
August 19, 1942

MEMORANDUM ON BLACK HILLS BEETLE SITUATION ON THE DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST, August 1942

N. D. Wygant

On August 12 an examination was made of the Black Hills beetle situation on the Swain's Creek and Strawberry Creek drainages on the Duck Creek Ranger District. Control was carried out in this area during the past season against a rather aggressive local infestation. The figures are not at hand as to the number of trees treated and the area covered, but in discussing the project with Ranger Bentley on July 2 it was learned that there were a number of large groups treated and the trees contained heavy broods. In a memorandum, Furniss (October 7, 1941) presented his observations on the situation and advised control. It is my understanding that the control area was not spotted 100 percent by a regular spotting crew, but instead, the infested trees were scouted out and marked ahead of the control crews. The relatively small number of "red tops" in the area indicates that the method was quite effective in locating most of the trees. The remaining infested trees that were observed were for the most part scattered and singles.

Reports from the forest headquarters indicate that the Black Hills beetle is endemic on the remainder of the forest and it is hoped that the project on Swain's Creek has cleared up that area. Observations along the Mammoth Creek-Panguitch Lake road and the Duck Creek road revealed only a few scattered trees which for the most part were lightning struck, stag-headed, or decadent trees. Considerable damage from what appeared to be the lodgepole pine rust (Cronartium coleosporioides) was observed along the road. There were many flagged branches on the older trees as well as the young, resulting in a progressive killing of the crowns.

In order to determine the success of the control work on Swain's Creek and to determine whether there are adjacent areas in need of treatment, it seems advisable to make a fall survey of a few sections in the Swain's Creek area. In discussing the situation with Mr. Miles from the Regional Office, he thought that it would be possible to detail Mr. Alvey and his survey crew from the Powell to the Swain's Creek area for a few days. The size of the area probably does not warrant the training and expense of setting up a separate crew for the Dixie.